# GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

*Published Weekly by*

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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THE "GARDEN OF EDEN" HOPES TO RECOVER REPUTATION OF PARADISE WITH IRRIGATION CANALS (See Bulletin No. 1)

### HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

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## Iraq, Traditional Garden of Eden, Has Modern Ambitions

THE Kingdom of Iraq has called forth world attention on two counts within the last few weeks.

If the negotiations of Feisal, Iraq's Arab king, are successful, this ancient area will become the newest member of the League of Nations.

If the gusher brought in at Kirkuk, which spouted 90,000 barrels of oil a day, is a true indicator of Iraq's petroleum resources, then the kingdom will take on new economic importance.

Iraq is a modern name for the traditional Garden of Eden, historically known as Mesopotamia. Many historians hold that somewhere in the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers is to be found the cradle of civilization.

### Mohammedan Prince from Mecca King of Iraq

Upon the breaking up of the Turkish Empire following the World War, Mesopotamia became a British mandate, which was erected into the Arab Kingdom of Iraq with a Mohammedan prince from Mecca upon the throne. In the last six thousand years Babylonian, Assyrian, Chaldean, Persian, Greek, Roman, and Saracen civilizations have flourished in Mesopotamia, each rising from the ashes of its predecessor.

The great irrigation works which, throughout the centuries, had kept the Tigris-Euphrates Valley green, rich, and flourishing were destroyed by invading Mongols and allowed to decay by heedless Turks. The Garden of Eden became a treeless desert, except for a few date palms along the river banks. Cities like Bagdad and Basra fell into decay and seemed fast approaching the fate which had overtaken Ur and Babylon, where jackals howl above a lonely waste.

Then followed a rebirth during the throes of the Great War. Once more boats crowded the swift and treacherous reaches of the Tigris. Once more the bazaars of Bagdad and Basra and Mosul hummed with world traffic. Marauding desert robber tribes were kept in perpetual peace by airplanes humming over their remote villages. Sanitary regulations and electric lighting made town and country both more safe and more healthful. Ice factories and soda water establishments helped alleviate summer days of 120° in the shade. Levees were built to keep the flooding rivers within their banks, and slowly, bit by bit, work was begun on repairing irrigation works and building railroads. Thus was modern Iraq born.

### Bagdad, Modern as Well as Ancient Capital of Region

The new kingdom under British mandate embraces the valley of the Tigris-Euphrates between the Arabian Desert on one side and the Persian uplands on the other. To the northwest lies the French mandate of Syria and to the north the Kurdish highlands of Turkey. Southward stretches the Persian Gulf, the country's salt water outlet to the wide world. Within this strip of territory are barely three million people where once flourished a population denser than that of modern Belgium.

There are three principal cities: Mosul, of oil fame, is in the north; Bagdad, the capital, in the central part; and the important port of Basra in the south. The latter is situated on the Shatt-el-Arab, a river formed by the union of the Tigris and Euphrates. Smaller centers of importance, such as Kut and Amara, follow each other at intervals the entire length of the valley. Most of the inhabitants

A ONE-HORSEPOWER MACHINE FOR HAULING IN A MARYLAND SHAD SEINE (See Bulletin No. 2)

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## When Annapolis Had a "Tea Party"

ANNAPOLIS has been preserved as your country's most truly colonial city. You may wander about this fine old community and feel that you are living in those dramatic days when the little city on the Severn had a major part in shaping the course of the Nation's history.

Going down to the water front, you can pick out a sailing craft and vision the square-sterned, 60-ton brigantine, *Peggy Stewart,* which, on October 15, 1774, arrived at Annapolis from England with an assorted cargo, including 17 packages of tea. Anthony Stewart, the owner of the brig, was a Marylander who had signed the nonimportation agreement. In order to unload the bulk of the cargo, he rashly paid the duty on the tea.

When he was called to account he begged to be allowed to burn the tea publicly. But he was not to escape so lightly. Finally Stewart purged himself by undertaking to burn his brig, with the tea aboard. His offer was accepted, and the brig was run aground and burned to the water's edge, in open day, by men who operated in broad daylight, wore no disguises, and were ready to admit their act and abide its consequences.

According to John Galloway, an eyewitness, the majority would have been satisfied to burn the tea; but, however that may be, it was an act that fired the Colonies and cast Maryland's lot irrevocably with the forces of freedom. A picture of the firing of the *Peggy Stewart* hangs on the walls of the statehouse.—From "A Maryland Pilgrimage," by Gilbert Grosvenor, LL.D., Litt.D., President National Geographic Society, in the National Geographic Magazine for February, 1927 (see Bulletin No. 2).

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## Using The Geographic in the Classroom

An example of the way The National Geographic Magazine's articles and illustrations are used in the class-room is contained in a recent Bulletin of the Nebraska Chapter of the National Council of Geography Teachers. The Bulletin is headed "A Class Study of a Magazine Article," and the study was worked out by an assistant in the Department of Geography of the University of Nebraska. New material on geography is constantly available and the progressive teacher uses this to bring her teaching up to date and also to interest pupils in the subject, especially by employing illustrations effectively in class-room work. The "class study" referred to follows:

THE following exercises are based on the National Geographic Magazine for February, 1927, using the article "A Maryland Pilgrimage" by Gilbert Grosvenor. Other issues and other magazines may be used equally well with similar sets of questions and exercises prepared by the instructor.

Questions may be directed to research and correlation in many other ways than those following.

Thus a lesson in English, oral and written, history, spelling, reading and art, and various phases of geography may be correlated to a high degree with a minimum of preparation. It teaches the student to develop the power of analysis, it reveals his weaknesses, reviews important topics, develops an attitude of research and finally it shows him that all knowledge is not contained in his textbooks, which he will eventually discard for the current publications of the day.

### GEOGRAPHY

1. Show that Maryland is a "delightful geographic miniature of North America."
2. Locate Patapsco River. How might it have influenced the location of Baltimore?
3. Point out on the map the places shown in the pictures on pages 134, 135, 136, and 137.
4. Make a map of Maryland showing at least ten places mentioned in the story and write a short paragraph of not more than forty words concerning each of these places.
5. Make a list of the things that the people of Maryland have to sell. In what parts of Maryland would you expect to find each of them? To whom would they be sold?

### HISTORY

1. How did Maryland get its name?
2. What are some of the important circumstances concerning the Maryland Charter?
3. Tell of the religious freedom of early Maryland.
4. Locate the District of Columbia. What is its area? Who governs it? In some reference book find the story of the giving of this land to the United States and be ready to give a short talk to the class telling what you have found.

### INTERPRETATION

1. Let a number of good students prepare a paper or report interpreting the author's idea in his statements given on page 135.

### PICTURE STUDY (Page 146)

1. Why was this picture named "one horsepower"? (See reproduction of this illustration on page preceding Bulletin No. 1.)
2. Of what use are the bobs on the seine?
3. How are the men dressed? Why?
4. Note how the man piles the rope. Why is he so careful?
5. Why does not the drift wood extend to the water's edge?
6. For what are the men fishing?
7. What is the duty of each man?
8. Who drives the horse?
9. Explain fully how the horse helps.
10. Look at the timber from which the "machine" is made. Where do you suppose the wood was obtained? How can you judge?



UMI

are Mohammedan Arabs, though in the cities are many Jews, while in the mountainous north are settlements of Nestorian Christians dating from very early times.

City Arabs have taken readily to the ways of civilization and seem glad for the chance to work in ice and cotton cloth factories, and upon engineering and public works. Much agricultural land has been reclaimed, the date palm, of which more than sixty varieties are known, being the chief product. Wheat, barley, and rice are also grown, and experiments with cotton are being made. Flowers, pumpkins, and vegetables are planted in the date orchards, where the palms protect tender leaves below from the scorching summer sun. These green spots are still chiefly confined to the region of the river banks. The rest of the lower valley is swamp or treeless plain.

At some distance from the settled districts roving bands of Arabs herd camels and sheep wherever they can find a little grass for grazing. When forage gives out in one spot, they fold their brown tents and depart quickly and silently for fresher regions.

### The Land of Noah, Abraham and Ali Baba

In the spring months, when snows are melting on nearby mountain ranges, the Tigris and Euphrates become swollen torrents and often overflow their banks and inundate the surrounding country, just as they did in the days of Noah. The new regime is taking active steps in flood prevention by strengthening river banks in low places and damming up the flow at headwaters. There has been no serious flood since 1919, when the Tigris rose to within a foot of the level of Bagdad and the lower valley became one vast lake wherein man and beast vainly sought for safety.

Mesopotamia teems with other reminders of Bible stories. From the city of Ur, Abraham set forth for the land of Canaan. Near Babylon are the traditional ruins of the Tower of Babel and the great palace of Nebuchadnezzar. Beside the Tigris is the domed tomb of the Prophet Ezra. Up country is pointed out the fiery furnace into which the Hebrew children were cast. Whether authentic or traditional, these spots carry the traveler's imagination into a remote past.

In addition to Bible history, Mesopotamia teems with legends of Arabian Nights of later days. The region of Bagdad the magnificent was the home of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves with all their romantic associates. These characters have cast a lasting spell upon the city's domes and minarets. History and romance have mellowed the capital of modern Iraq, now refurnished for action, a sort of Father Time in khaki.

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## New Year Day Was Slave Emancipation Day in Sierra Leone Protectorate

ON JANUARY 1, 1928, in the British Protectorate of Sierra Leone on the West Coast of Africa, 210,000 slaves became free of bondage to their native owners. From this region came many of the slaves of American Colonial times.

Sierra Leone was first explored by Portuguese navigators who gave the region its name, which, translated into English, means "Lion Mountain." The Portuguese explorers left no permanent trace upon the coast.

### Protectorate Distinct from Colony of Sierra Leone

Toward the end of the eighteenth century British philanthropists founded a colony there for the benefit of freed slaves. Many negroes were brought thither from various parts of America, as well as boat loads of captives destined for the market but seized before sale. These negroes, from various African tribes, called themselves Creoles following their stay in America, and their descendants clung to that name. The capital of the new colony was appropriately called Freetown. Creoles still form a superior class, many being leaders in business and the professions. Even the uneducated Creoles speak a sort of pidgin English and hold themselves above the natives.

During the nineteenth century British trade and influence gradually spread from the colony over the surrounding country. Intertribal wars and slave raids in the region interfered with a valuable palm oil traffic. One by one treaties were negotiated with native chiefs until a region the size of the State of South Carolina was brought within British jurisdiction. This is the Protectorate of Sierra Leone, as distinguished from the colony immediately surrounding Freetown. The Protectorate extends about 180 miles inland from the coast and is bordered on the south by Liberia and on the other two sides by French-African possessions. It lies near the equator, being on about the same parallel of north latitude as the mouth of the Orinoco River in South America.

### Source of African Equivalent to Chewing Gum

Palm oil and the palm kernel are leading exports. The palm trees do not have to be cultivated, so all the natives have to do is to gather the harvest and dispose of it to a trader.

Palm oil is extracted from the pulpy fruit, whose kernels, when treated in European or American factories, also yield a valuable oil. These oils are used in the manufacture of soap, tin cans and other products. The next export of importance is the kola nut, raised almost exclusively for the African trade, where it is widely chewed by the natives as a stimulant. Other exports are ginger, rubber, cacao, coffee, and coconuts. Cotton goods, rum, gin, hardware, and tobacco are among the leading imports.

Of late years strides have been made in the Protectorate. A railroad with branches and motor road connections has been pushed into the interior. A system of justice has been established, largely obliterating slave traffic, cannibalism, and other dark practices. Some tribes are pagan and some Mohammedan, while Creoles are in the main Christian, but all appear to live together harmoniously. The power of the fetish is still strong in the land, however, and there are

## RESEARCH AND REFERENCE

1. On page 62 is a picture of the Potomac. Find other pictures, especially at Washington, D. C., or below. Note the difference in the rivers. Find an explanation for this difference. Other rivers along the Atlantic coast have this same feature. A line of cities known as "Fall Line" cities are important on these rivers.
2. Look up some of the religious history of various colonial states.
3. Make a three-minute report concerning the "Friends" or "Quakers."

## SPELLING

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| geographic | slow | canals | breeding | malarial |
| loveliest | dozen | dainties | oyster | hatches |
| museum | forty | tobacco | adult | dumping |
| friendship | social | splendor | mosquito | |

## MISCELLANEOUS

1. How did Tobacco River gets its name?
2. Tell of the early beginnings of woman suffrage in the U. S.
3. Look up the "oyster's biography."
4. Tell of the "ways of the crab."

## EXERCISE

A student might be the captain of a ship making the journey, as related by Gilbert Grosvenor. As he comes to each stop, let different members of the class be the "guide" telling the class of each of these places stopped at. If assignments have been made ahead, some interesting reports may be had. The captain will see that everyone is "on board" by keeping them informed of their whereabouts during the journey, so that they will all be together. The captain will describe the journey, time of arrival, departure, etc.

None of these units, or divisions of study, are complete. They are merely samples. So often the teacher inquires as to methods of using literature outside the textbooks to good advantage for teaching purposes. A wonderful opportunity is given the teacher to use geography effectively as a social science by association with other subjects, thereby instilling a fundamental sense of unity which does not prevail when "subjects" are taught.

This plan, as it is written, covers material of the article studied up to about page 153. Try this much of it. If it is liked, work out the rest of the article and use it.—From a Bulletin of the Nebraska Chapter of the National Council of Geography Teachers.

**Bulletin No. 2, January 2, 1928.**

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**A CATCH OF MENHADEN: ANOTHER PICTURE WHICH HAS A LONG GEOGRAPHIC STORY**

**Chesapeake Bay fishermen have specially constructed ships for taking big hauls of the bountiful menhaden, which has a variety of uses. Oil is pressed out of the cooked fish and sold to manufacturers of soaps and paints, while the solid residue makes a rich fertilizer. The dried fish flakes also make an excellent food for poultry, especially for laying hens, and hogs fatten readily on such fare.**

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## Modern Hesse, from Which the Hessians Did Not Come

IT WAS from Hesse-Cassel, now a part of Prussia, and not from the modern State of Hesse that George III of England secured his mercenary troops for use against the American revolutionists.

After the incorporation of Hesse-Cassel into Prussia in 1866, Hesse-Darmstadt was known as the Grand Duchy of Hesse and later became a state of the German Republic, called simply Hesse.

Though small in area, Hesse is ancient in history and important in its position at the junction of the River Main with the Rhine. The modern state was formed from the Grand Duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt, so called to distinguished it from its neighbor Hesse-Cassel. The Hesses were formerly one, but the duchies were separated before America was even colonized.

### World Famous Vineyards in Two Rhine Provinces

As at present constituted Hesse consists of three provinces. Rhein-Hessen and Starkenburg, the two southern divisions, lie one on either side of the Rhine. Ober-Hessen, cut off from these by a narrow strip of Prussia, is situated in a region of low hills which separate the valleys of the Rhine and the Weser. The whole state has the shape of a dumb-bell from which the connecting rod has been removed. Rhein-Hessen and Starkenburg form one ball and Ober-Hessen the other. The district surrounding the Prussian city of Frankfort separates the two.

Ober-Hessen is an interesting country with its hills rich in iron and manganese and its fields of waving rye and barley. Giessen is the capital and chief city of this isolated province. The pride of the town of Giessen is its university, founded in 1607. In the main, however, Ober-Hessen is an agricultural and industrial region.

For romance the traveler must seek the river provinces of Rhein-Hessen and Starkenburg. Here are vineyards world-famous for their sparkling wines and cities which date back to the days when the Rhine was northern frontier of the Roman Empire.

### Where Luther Defended His Doctrines Before the Emperor

Such a city is Mainz near the junction of the Main and Rhine Rivers, formerly one of the strongest fortified points in the Rhine Valley. Here the Roman general Drusus, stepson of the Emperor Augustus, established a camp, around which gathered local artisans and Roman traders. Thus grew up a city which later became the capital of a Roman province and the base of Roman operations. The Christian religion was introduced, and after the fall of the Roman Empire the city was for centuries ruled by its bishops. After the formation of the German Empire, Mainz was strongly fortified, but these fortifications were demolished in 1920. In recent years the city has served as headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief of the French Army of the Rhine, known as the Army of Occupation.

Another historic city of Hesse is Worms, where Martin Luther defended his doctrines before the Emperor Charles V. One of the most distinguished audiences ever assembled gathered to witness the occasion. The ancient episcopal palace in which the historic scene took place has been demolished, but a modern memorial

occasionally dark whisperings concerning practices of native "secret societies" which hold weird meetings in the jungle.

### White Residents Live in Hill Town Six Miles from Capital

Freetown is a thriving port of about 45,000 population. It is the chief British city on the west African coast, though its inhabitants are largely Creole. The white portion of the community, for the most part, lives in a more healthful hill station six miles away. Large British industrial plants using Sierra Leonian raw products are now establishing depots in the Protectorate. Modern influence is supplanting former wasteful habits of trade and agriculture with efficiency.

Bulletin No. 3, January 2, 1928.

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**AN OIL PALM CONE, SOURCE OF AN INGREDIENT OF AMERICAN SOAP**

**This cone of fresh fruit, cut from under the fronds at the crown of an oil palm tree, weighs 56 pounds and contains 1,445 serviceable oil palm nuts. Natives extract the palm oil by boiling the nuts in caldrons. Palm nut oil has a ready market in the United States, where it is used in soap and in the process of tinning sheet iron for tin cans.**

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## Bengal: Where Cholera May Affect American Supply of Gunny Sacks

CHOLERA has been spreading through Bengal Province, according to recent reports from India. The plague, by which the thickly populated districts of Asia are scourged from time to time, has already taken many lives.

A severe plague will hurt Bengal's business of providing sacks for the world. More than 50,000 looms in the province weave from jute 450,000,000 bags per year and more than a billion and a half square yards of jute cloth.

Straddling the northernmost point of the Bay of Bengal, the province stretches northward to the peaks of the Himalayas. While it covers a slightly larger area than Kansas, as many people live in Bengal as inhabit New York State, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Texas, and Michigan. More than eighty different languages are spoken, not to mention the various dialects.

### Where Bengal Tigers Live

The narrow northern extremity of Bengal resembles that of Idaho. Like Idaho, Bengal spreads out as it stretches southward.

Bengal's gateway is its most homely feature. The water that surrounds the coast is laden with silt, brought down from the north by the Ganges and a labyrinth of rivers and creeks that pierce the coast line. Water-logged jungles, infested with tigers and other wild animals, lie between these channels. These wilds and the swampy lowlands immediately north of them are called the Sundarbans.

When the Ganges goes on its annual rampage and overflows its banks for 200 miles from its mouth, the Sundarbans are submerged. The less flooded area is planted in rice, and it is an interesting sight to see "row boat farmers" tending their submarine crops. When the water subsides, it leaves a fertile layer of earth that causes jute, rice and wheat, and many other products to thrive in this region.

### Calcutta, Capital of Bengal and India's Largest City

Calcutta, capital of the province, and the largest city of India, lies about 80 miles up the Hooghly River. Since it is the only large port at the head of the Bay of Bengal and easily reached by canals, rivers and railroads from the interior, Assam and other neighboring provinces also use the port of Bengal. As a result the Hooghly is filled with shipping.

As one approaches the city by water the tall smokestacks of jute mills loom up above low buildings where jute sacking and cloth is made and shipped to all parts of the world. Jute products that are not made at Dundee, Scotland, come from Bengal's mills. More than $125,000,000 worth of jute products are exported from Calcutta annually.

Calcutta includes Calcutta proper, the trading district, Maidan, the residential section, and Howrah, on the opposite side of the Hooghly, a manufacturing center and the terminus of three large railroads. They are all included in Greater Calcutta with a population as large as that of Detroit.

### Darjeeling Is the Hot Weather Calcutta

In sharp contrast with the commercial and factory districts, Maidan has beautiful parks and lakes, fine residences and imposing government buildings.

now marks the spot. Worms boasts a nine-hundred-year-old cathedral that is considered one of the finest examples of Romanesque architecture in Germany.

Darmstadt, capital of the modern state of Hesse, is an industrial town of about 90,000 inhabitants, situated in the middle of a flat country of little interest to tourists. It is noted for its iron foundries, machine shops, and chemical works. The city has pleasant residential sections and a ducal palace dating from the fourteenth century. It was residence here that gave the rulers of this region the title of Landgraves of Hesse-Darmstadt to distinguish them from their neighbors and Landgraves of Hesse-Cassel, who lived in the city of Cassel farther to the north. It was from Cassel that Hessian mercenaries departed for America in Revolutionary times.

### Frederick of Prussia Levied Cattle Tax on Mercenaries

Frederick of Prussia is said to have so disapproved of the proceedings that he levied a cattle tax on the little army when it passed through his dominions, saying that they were hired out like animals. In 1866 Hesse-Cassel was annexed to Prussia because that duchy had sided with Austria in the war between these two great German states.

Thus it is that the American student of history must look to modern Prussia instead of modern Hesse for the home of the Hessians of Revolutionary fame. But he will find in modern Hesse, the old Hesse-Darmstadt, a Rhine country full of scenic charm and historic splendor, teeming alike with romantic legend and up-to-date industrial enterprise.

**Note:** An excellent illustrated account of the entire Rhine River is to be found in "Rediscovering the Rhine: A Trip by Barge from the Sea to the Headwaters of Europe's Storied Stream," by Melville Chater, National Geographic Magazine for July, 1925.

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**HESSE IS THE HOME OF FAMOUS VINEYARDS**

**Grapevines have been grown for centuries on the sunny hillsides neighboring the Rhine River. Mainz, a noted Rhine town, lies in the State of Hesse.**

The buildings were occupied by the Indian government when Calcutta was capital of India, before Delhi became the government seat in 1912. The Governor's residence in Maidan was formerly the Viceroy's palace. It is twice as large as our White House.

Nearly all Bengal is a flat, fertile plain from the Sundarbans to the foot of the Himalayas, which is reached after a day and night of train riding. A narrow-gauge railroad is then taken to reach Bengal's roof, Darjeeling, perched 7,000 feet up among Himalaya peaks. The snake-like course of the railroad passes thousands of acres of tea plants that, from a distance, resemble fields of boxwood hedge. Some of the plants grow 6 feet tall in Bengal, and are stripped of their leaves five times a year.

Darjeeling is a haven during the hot, humid summer months for the British in Bengal. The temperature in the mountain town seldom goes above eighty. The Governor of Bengal spends four months of the year here. Homes and villas in the resort are rented to visitors and Darjeeling has its quota of sanitariums.

### The Strong Women of Darjeeling

The mountain peaks in the neighborhood of Darjeeling are different from any in the world. So are the natives. Many of the town's inhabitants are Tibetans. At the station one is greeted by a bevy of Tibetan women who hire themselves out as porters. They are famous for their strength. Heavy trunks are swung across their backs and carried long distances up and down hill with apparent ease. Even with three or four husbands they are heads of their families.

The native women seem to try to "out-jingle" one another by wearing all kinds of ornaments. Even those who look poorly nourished are bedecked with earrings, anklets, bracelets, and necklaces of silver, glass and turquoise.

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**HOW THEY HUNT BENGAL'S NAMESAKE BEAST**

**The Bengal tiger is native to the swamps of the mouths of the Ganges. Tigers are hunted with elephants trained and equipped for following wounded beasts into the jungle. The natives are beaters and the hunter rides in the litter borne on the shoulders of litter-bearers.**